US Army Corps
of Engineers
Honolulu District

4 December 2008

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Mokuhinia/Mokuʻula Ecosystem Restoration, Maui, Hawaiʻi

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The Mokuhinia/Mokuʻula Ecosystem Restoration project is authorized under the Continuing Authorities Program Section 206, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 and is in the feasibility phase. The Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP) was approved by the Pacific Ocean Division on 24 November 2004 and correspondingly allowing the Honolulu District to enter the feasibility phase. Funds in the amount of $413,000 were received through FY07. The non-Federal Sponsor is the County of Maui. The local interest group, Friends of Mokuʻula, is a strong supporter of the project, as is the local community.

b. The objective of the project is to restore the historic island, pond and wetland area that previously existed at the site. This wetland was known as Lokoʻo Mokuhinia, a 17-acre pond that surrounded an island called Mokuʻula. The area is now filled fastlands that are primarily used for a county park. Possible restoration features to the area include excavation to reestablish Lokoʻo Mokuhinia, restoration of Mokuʻula Island, resuscitation of the natural springs, reestablishment of the previous wet sedge aquatic community, restoration of surface flow to Mokuhinia, and reconnection of Mokuhinia to the ocean, possibly via an existing drainage ditch. (See attached drawing.)

c. The site is historically significant because the home of Hawaiʻi's royalty and highest aliʻi were located in Pākala, an area adjacent and north of Mokuʻula. King Kamehameha III ruled the Hawaiian Islands from his residential complex at Mokuʻula. Each of the Hawaiian sovereigns descended from parents tied to Pākala. Mokuʻula and Mokuhinia are listed in both the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

d. The purpose of the project is to restore habitat suitable for Hawaiian waterfowl, koloa maoli (duck), aeʻo (stilt), ʻalae ʻula (Hawaiian Moorhen) and ʻalae keʻokeʻo (Hawaiian Coot), which are endangered species and endemic to Hawaiʻi. Other tangible outputs would include mullet, tadpoles, mosquito fish, and other organisms that rely on wetland ecosystems during some or all of their life cycles.

e. Through baseline conditions evaluations conducted in 2007, the potential for relic sources of hazardous materials was identified. As a result, a Phase II Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Assessment is being conducted to determine the presence of any potential contaminants, their extent, and to propose potential remediation options. This study is scheduled to be completed in September 2009.

Project Site – Present Day

Project Site - Proposed Restoration